

Message Text

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44

ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 FEAE-00 DODE-00 ERDA-05 ERDE-00

ACDE-00 PM-04 H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05

CEQ-01 EPA-01 FPC-01 /114 W
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O R 261142Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7370

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL KARACHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 8991

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, MNUC, TECH, PK

SUBJECT: KANUP BREAKDOWN

1. THE KANUP NUCLEAR POWER PLANT IN KARACHI HAS BEEN DOWN FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE MONTH. A PIPE WITHIN THE REACTOR BROKE RELEASING THE 20 TONS OF HEAVY WATER INTO A SUMP BASIN BENEATH THE REACTOR. FOUR TONS STANDBY HEAVY WATER WERE IMMEDIATELY RELEASED INTO THE REACTOR TO AID IN THE COOLING DOWN PROCESS.

2. DAVID STOCKWELL, FIRST SECRETARY CANADIAN EMBASSY, HAS INFORMED EMBOFF THAT A PAKISTAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION TECHNICIAN HAS FLOWN TO CANADA WITH THE DEFECTIVE PIPE TO HAVE IT REPAIRED. STOCKWELL ADDED THAT THE 20 TONS OF HEAVY WATER PRESENTLY IN THE SUMP BASIS ARE APPROXIMATELY 80 PERCENT PURE. THE PAKISTANIS HAVE DECONTAMINATING FACILITIES BUT IT WILL TAKE APPROXIMATELY FOUR MONTHS BEFORE THE 20 TONS ARE PURE ENOUGH TO BE PUT BACK INTO THE REACTOR. THE GOP HAS CONSEQUENTLY ASKED THE GOC
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IF IT CAN BORROW 20 TONS OF HEAVY WATER TO BE USED

UNTIL THEIR OWN 20 TONS ARE DECONTAMINATED. THEY HAVE ALSO ASKED FOR LOAN OF AN ADDITIONAL 4 TONS TO BE USED AS STANDBY IN CASE OF ANOTHER REACTOR BREAKDOWN. THE GOP HAS REQUESTED THAT THE HEAVY WATER BE AIRSHIPPED FROM CANADA SO THE REACTOR CAN COME BACK ON LINE BY SEPTEMBER FOURTH.

3. STOCKWELL SAID THAT HIS EMBASSY HAS RECOMMENDED THAT THE 20 TONS PRESENTLY IN THE SUMP BASIN BE SENT TO CANADA FOR DECONTAMINATION TO BE REPLACED BY 20 TONS OF PURE HEAVY WATER SUPPLIED BY THE GOC. HE ADDED THAT THIS WOULD ENSURE THAT PAKISTAN WOULD NOT HAVE 40 TONS OF HEAVY WATER (PLUS 4 TONS STANDBY) ON HAND ONCE THE DECONTAMINATION PROCEDURES ARE FINISHED.

4. ACCORDING TO STOCKWELL, THE DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO SUPPLY THE 24 TONS WILL BE MADE AT THE CABINET LEVEL. THE GOP RECENTLY BORROWED 4 TONS FROM THE CANADIANS TO REPLENISH THEIR STANDBY SUPPLY. AT THAT TIME THE CANADIAN EMBASSY HERE WAS DIRECTED TO INFORM THE GOP THAT NO MORE NUCLEAR SUPPLIES WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE GOP UNTIL A NEW KANUP AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED. CONSEQUENTLY, THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT THE CANADIANS WILL NOT AGREE TO SUPPLY THE HEAVY WATER THAT WILL ALLOW THE PLANT TO START UP WITHIN THE NEXT 4 MONTHS.

5. OUR CONSULATE IN KARACHI REPORTS THAT NORMALLY APPROXIMATELY 20 TO 25 PERCENT OF KARACHI ELECTRIC POWER IS SUPPLIED BY KANUP. (STOCKWELL NOTED THAT THE FIGURE HAS BEEN AS HIGH AS 40 PERCENT AT CERTAIN TIMES.) THE KARACHI ELECTRIC SUPPLY CORPORATION (KESC) HAS MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO RESTRICT CONSUMPTION AMONG INDUSTRIAL CONSUMERS, HOWEVER NON-INDUSTRIAL CONSUMPTION HAS REMAINED UNAFFECTED. STOCKWELL NOTES THAT AS LONG AS KARACHI'S GAS AND HYDROELECTRIC SUPPLY REMAINS CONSTANT, IT WILL HAVE ADEQUATE ELECTRIC POWER. HOWEVER ANY FURTHER BREAKDOWN IN THE POWER SYSTEM AT ANY POINT WOULD CAUSE SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES FOR THE CITY.

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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